

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A block suitable for forming a block wall, said block comprising:
 - a front wall extending between upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a first block face;
 - a rear wall spaced from said front wall and extending between the upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a second block face facing away from said first block face;
 - a pair of side walls extending between said front and rear walls and said upper and lower block surfaces, wherein a reference plane spaced from said front and rear walls extends between said pair of side walls;
 - at least one pair of pin slots formed in said upper block surface, each pin slot of said at least one pair of pin slots being formed in said upper block surface on opposing sides of said reference plane and spaced from said reference plane, wherein at least one of said pin slots having a planar side substantially parallel with said reference plane for orientating a planar outwardly facing surface of a pin received in said at least one pin slot to engage said planar outwardly facing surface of the pin with an inner wall of a block placed on said upper block surface; and
 - an opening formed in said lower block surface, said opening having a forward facing inner wall intersecting said lower block surface and spaced rearwardly from said reference line

and a rearward facing inner wall intersecting said lower block surface and spaced forwardly from said reference plane, wherein said forward facing inner walls and said rearward facing inner wall ~~at said lower block surface~~ are closer to said reference plane than said pin slots.

2. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which said opening is one end of a core formed through said block between said upper and lower block surfaces.

3. (Original) The block as in claim 2, in which said core opens onto said upper block surface between said pair of pin slots.

4. (Currently Amended) The block as in claim 2, in which said forward facing inner wall and said rearward facing inner wall are equidistant from said reference plane.

5. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which each pin slot of said at least one pair of pin slots is approximately equidistant from said reference plane.

6. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which said reference plane is approximately equidistant from said front and rear walls.

7. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which a reference line parallel to said reference plane is formed in said upper block surface.

8. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which reference lines parallel to said reference plane are formed in said side walls.

9. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which at least one of said pin slots is triangular.

10. (Original) The block as in claim 1, including a pin received in at least one of said pin slots.

11. (Original) The block as in claim 10, in which said pin has opposing ends extending from a center portion along a longitudinal axis, wherein said center portion extends radially from said axis a first distance and at least one of said ends extend radially from said axis a second distance, wherein said first distance is greater than said second distance.

12. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which said pair of pin slots are spaced equidistantly from said reference plane.

13. (Currently Amended) The block as in claim 1, in which said forward facing inner walls and said rearward facing inner wall ~~at said lower block surface~~ are equally closer to said reference plane than said pin slots.

14. (Original) The block as in claim 1, in which at least one of said side walls defines an obtuse angle with one of said front wall and said rear wall.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A block wall having at least two courses of blocks, one of said courses being supported by the other of said courses, said block wall comprising:

at least one first block forming part of one of said courses, said at least one block including a front wall extending between upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a first block face, a rear wall spaced from said front wall and extending between the upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a second block face facing away from said first block face, a pair of side walls extending between said front and rear walls and said upper and lower block surfaces, wherein a first reference plane spaced from said front and rear walls extends between said pair of side walls, at least one pair of pin slots formed in said upper block surface, each pin slot of said at least one pair of pin slots being formed in said upper block surface on opposing sides of said first reference plane and spaced from said first reference plane; and

at least one second block supported by said at least one first block and forming part of the other of said courses, said at least one second block including a front wall extending between upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a first block face, a rear wall spaced from said

front wall and extending between the upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a second block face facing away from said first block face, a pair of side walls extending between said front and rear walls and said upper and lower block surfaces, wherein a second reference plane spaced from said front and rear walls extends between said pair of side walls, an opening formed in said lower block surface, said opening having a forward facing inner wall intersecting said lower block surface and spaced rearwardly from said second reference plane and a rearward facing inner wall intersecting said lower block surface and spaced forwardly from said second reference plane~~The block wall as in claim 15, in which a pin received in one of said pin slots of said pair of pin slots engages one of said inner walls to space one of said front and rear walls of said at least one first block relative to one of said front and rear walls of said second block and form a retaining wall having a batter angle.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The block wall as in claim 16, in which said at least one first block includes at least one reference line parallel to said first reference plane spaced from said front and rear walls of said first block, and said at least one first block includes at least one reference line parallel to said second reference plane spaced from said front and rear walls of said second block, wherein ends of each of said reference lines are aligned to form an above ground wall.

18. (Original) The block wall as in claim 16, in which said opening of said at least one second block is one end of a core formed through said at least one second block between said upper and lower block surfaces.

19. (Original) The block wall as in claim 18, in which said core opens onto said upper block surface of said at least one second block between at least one pair of pin slots formed in said upper block surface of said at least one second block.

20. (Currently Amended) The block wall as in claim 156, in which said forward facing wall and said rearward facing wall of said at least one second block are equidistant from said reference plane of said at least one second block.

21. (Currently Amended) The block wall as in claim 156, in which said pin slots are approximately equidistant from said reference plane of said at least one first block.

22. (Currently Amended) The block wall as in claim 156, in which said reference plane of said at least one second block is approximately equidistant from said front and rear walls of said at least one second block.

23. (Original) The block wall as in claim 16, in which at least one of said pin slots is triangular, and said pin has a triangular cross section which snugly fits in said triangular pin slot.

24. (Original) The block wall as in claim 16, in which said pin has opposing ends extending from a center portion along a longitudinal axis, wherein said center portion extends radially from said axis a first distance and at least one of said ends extend radially from said axis a second distance, wherein said first distance is greater than said second distance.

25. (Original) The block wall as in claim 19, in which said pin slots of said at least one pair of pin slots are spaced equidistantly from said reference plane of said at least one first block.

26. (Currently Amended) The block wall as in claim 16, in which said inner walls at said lower block surface of said at least one second block are equally closer to said reference plane of said at least one second block than said pin slots formed in said upper surface of said at least one second block.

27. (Currently Amended) The block wall as in claim 156, in which at least one of said side walls of each of said at least one first and second blocks defines an obtuse angle with one of said front wall and said rear wall of each of said at least one first and second blocks.

28. (Currently Amended) A block suitable for forming a block wall, said block comprising:

a front wall extending between upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a first block face;

a rear wall spaced from said front wall and extending between the upper and lower block surfaces and presenting a second block face facing away from said first block face;

a pair of side walls extending between said front and rear walls and said upper and lower block surfaces, wherein a reference plane spaced from said front and rear walls extends between said pair of side walls;

at least one pair of pin slots formed in said upper block surface, each pin slot of said at least one pair of pin slots being formed in said upper block surface on opposing sides of said reference plane and equidistantly spaced from said reference plane, wherein at least one of said pin slots having a planar side substantially parallel with said reference plane for orientating a planar outwardly facing surface of a pin received in said at least one pin slot to engage said planar outwardly facing surface of the pin with an inner wall of a block placed on said upper block surface; and

an opening formed in said lower block surface, said opening having a forward facing inner wall intersecting said lower block surface and spaced rearwardly from said reference line and a rearward facing inner wall intersecting said lower block surface and spaced forwardly from said reference plane, wherein said inner walls at said lower block surface are equidistantly spaced from and closer to said reference plane than said pin slots.

29. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which said opening is one end of a core formed through said block between said upper and lower block surfaces.

30. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which said core opens onto said upper block surface between said pair of pin slots.

31. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which said reference plane is approximately equidistant from said front and rear walls.

32. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which a reference line parallel to said reference plane is formed in said upper block surface.

33. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which reference lines parallel to said reference plane are formed in said side walls.

34. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which at least one of said pin slots is triangular.

35. (Original) The block as in claim 28, including a pin received in at least one of said pin slots.

36. (Original) The block as in claim 35, in which said pin has opposing ends extending from a center portion along a longitudinal axis, wherein said center portion extends radially from said axis a first distance and at least one of said ends extend radially from said axis a second distance, wherein said first distance is greater than said second distance.

37. (Original) The block as in claim 28, in which at least one of said side walls defines an obtuse angle with one of said front wall and said rear wall.